

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 OPIC-03 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

AID-05 /027 W

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R 201548Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3688

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CFED, ML

SUBJECT: TAW TRANSFERS

REF: (A) STATE 83156, (B) STATE 094582

1. LEGAL DIVISION, MFA, HAS TRANSFERRED TAW CASE TO DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, MFA. THIS PUTS PROBLEM IN OFFICE WHICH HANDLES USG AID AGREEMENTS AND CONSEQUENTLY ASSURES A MORE RECEPTIVE ATMOSPHERE. THE BASIC PROBLEM FOR THE MALIANS IS THAT TAW IS IN VERY BAD ORDER HERE AND HAS INCURRED PERSONAL WRATH OF PRESIDENT TRAORE FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DEBTS TO GOM AND TO ITS CLIENTS IN MALI. ADDED TO THAT IS FACT THAT THERE IS ALMOST TOTAL UNFAMILIARITY WITH INVESTMENT GUARANTY AGREEMENT. (WE HAD TO SUPPLY TEXT TO FOREIGN OFFICE.) SOME MALIANS BELIEVE WE OUTSMARTED THEM BY TRANSFERRING TAW FUNDS TO EMBASSY ACCOUNT AND THERE IS A NOTICEABLE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM ON PART MFA TO EXPLAIN TO PRESIDENT THAT SUCH TRANSFERS WERE IN KEEPING WITH LETTER AND SPIRIT OF IGA. ADDITIONAL COMPLICATION IS THAT MALIAN AMBASSADOR IN ABIDJAN IS SENDING MISLEADING AND INCORRECT INFORMATION ON TAW TO MFA, I.E., TAW HAS NOT REPEAT NOT DECLARED BANKRUPTCY; IT IS DIRECTED BY A SENATE COMMITTEE WITH UNLIMITED RESOURCES, ETC.

2. DURING MEETINGS APRIL 13, 15 AND 17 CHARGE TRIED

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HARD TO SEPARATE EMBASSY'S OUTSTANDING REQUEST FOR GOM

APPROVAL OF PRIOR TAW TRANSFERS FROM MALIAN PREOCCUPATION WITH DEBTS OWED IT BY TAW. GOM EVIDENTLY WANTS TO GAIN TITLE TO TRUCKS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT STILL IN COUNTRY AND FEARS THAT USG WILL SOMEHOW GET THE TRUCKS TOO.

3. DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR CORPERATION, MOUSTAPHA DEME, IS RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL HANDLING CASE. GIVEN INTEREST OF SENIOR MALIAN OFFICIALS IN TAW DEBT, CHARGE WILL TRY TO MEET WITH DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENT'S CABINET DURING FOLLOWING WEEK TO PUSH MATTER ALONG.

4. ONE SPECIFIC PROBLEM RAISED BY DEME WAS WHETHER OR NOT USG HAD ADVISED GOM THAT USG HAD GUARANTEED TAW INVESTMENT IN MALI. DEME BASED THIS QUESTION ON PARA 2 OF IGA (TIAS 5636). WHILE WE DO NOT READ THIS PARAGRAPH AS REQUIRING FORMAL NOTIFICATION, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF DEPT. COULD ADVISE IF SUCH NOTIFICATION WAS CARRIED OUT AND IN WHAT MANNER.

5. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IF EMBASSY COULD INFORM GOM THAT USG PLANS NO FURTHER ACTIONS AGAINST TAW ASSETS IN MALI. CAN DEPARTMENT CONFIRM?

6. REGRET DELAY, BUT OUR INITIAL EFFORTS AT LOW-KEY APPROACH PROVED UNAVAILING. TAW PROBLEM HAS TURNED INTO ONE OF MOST COMPLICATED AND UNUSUAL REQUESTS WE HAVE MADE TO GOM IN SEVERAL YEARS.

7. REF B JUST RECEIVED. DISREGARD PARA 4 ABOVE.
DAWKINS

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